

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7722
E-mail: dkostick@usgs.gov

Jeff Milanovich (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7982

Fax: (703) 648-7975

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN JUNE 2000

Natural soda ash production in June was 881,000 metric tons, 9% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 212,000 tons, 15% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1.23 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in May was 595,000 tons,

15% higher than the May 1999 level of 519,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2000 were 314,000 tons and 5,560 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through May 2000, compared with those of 1999, were as follows: production 3% lower, imports 1% lower, exports 1% higher, ending stocks 27% lower, and apparent consumption 2% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1999:			
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,370
July	911	315	1,140
August	803	292	1,180
September	824	254	1,280
October	888	264	1,290
November	899	230	1,290
December	884	248	1,350
Total (January-June)	5,040	XX	8,340
Year total	10,200	XX	15,900
2000:			
January	809	313	1,380
February	740	295	1,330
March	841	343	1,390
April	839	342	1,290
May	810	248	1,220
June	881	212	1,230
Total	4,920	XX	7,830

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 2000 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN MAY 2000 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	51,700	\$5,740	\$111
Korea, Republic of	34,100	3,960	116
Thailand	26,100	3,000	115
Chile	23,900	3,470	145
Indonesia	23,300	2,480	107
Taiwan	19,000	2,330	122
Canada	17,000	1,630	96
Saudi Arabia	15,000	1,340	89
South Africa	14,300	1,870	131
Japan	13,000	1,580	122
Other	76,700	9,390	122
Total	314,000	36,800	117

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ June 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2000 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	10,100	12,000	--	11,300	33,400	2
Aruba	--	293	40	20	--	353	(3/)
Australia	7,420	13,700	--	--	7,000	28,100	2
Belgium	--	--	--	19,300	--	19,300	1
Bolivia	--	450	600	--	--	1,050	(3/)
Brazil	28,100	29,200	354	--	6,930	64,600	5
Canada	23,700	15,500	18,000	15,300	17,000	89,500	6
Chile	--	23,500	28,200	--	23,900	75,600	5
China	--	4,200	--	12,300	--	16,500	1
Colombia	11,300	--	11,000	--	10,900	33,200	2
Costa Rica	--	6,030	--	--	--	6,030	(3/)
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	93	--	93	(3/)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	17	(3/)
France	--	--	--	7,500	10,100	17,600	1
Guatemala	--	--	5,290	--	--	5,290	(3/)
Indonesia	12,400	--	--	44,100	23,300	79,800	6
Italy	--	--	--	10,000	--	10,000	1
Jamaica	1,990	--	14	--	--	2,000	(3/)
Japan	23,000	27,700	19,800	41,000	13,000	124,000	9
Korea, Republic of	36,600	44,300	30,700	26,700	34,100	172,000	12
Malaysia	--	13,000	--	24,300	4,000	41,300	3
Mexico	38,200	29,900	28,500	57,200	51,700	206,000	15
New Zealand	--	--	--	7,530	--	7,530	1
Nigeria	--	--	3,980	--	--	3,980	(3/)
Panama	--	--	--	--	2,000	2,000	(3/)
Peru	--	2,870	1,900	--	--	4,770	(3/)
Philippines	8,500	--	9,450	--	10,300	28,200	2
Portugal	--	--	--	--	5,160	5,160	(3/)
Russia	--	144	--	--	--	144	(3/)
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	15,100	--	15,000	45,100	3
Singapore	--	--	--	--	4,000	4,000	(3/)
South Africa	25,000	--	--	--	14,300	39,300	3
Spain	9,360	--	--	11,800	--	21,200	2
Switzerland	--	36	--	--	--	36	(3/)
Taiwan	26,000	--	12,500	6,000	19,000	63,500	5
Thailand	14,200	16,200	15,200	--	26,100	71,700	5
Trinidad and Tobago	--	19	--	2,800	--	2,820	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	5,000	5,000	(3/)
United Kingdom	--	--	163	6,040	--	6,210	(3/)
Venezuela	40,900	--	4,030	--	--	44,900	3
Vietnam	5,000	--	5	5,000	--	10,000	1
Total	327,000	237,000	217,000	297,000	314,000	1,390,000	100

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ June 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1999:		
May	6,600	\$761
June	7,960	980
July	7,750	939
August	6,410	812
September	9,120	1,080
October	8,840	1,080
November	7,690	959
December	10,200	1,220
Total (January-May)	33,900	3,990
Year total	91,900	11,100
2000: 3/		
January	6,510	784
February	8,660	981
March	6,920	811
April	5,910	713
May	5,560	642
Total	33,600	3,930

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ June 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1999:						
May	886,000	6,600	275,000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	7,960	234,000	--	67,800	701,000
July	911,000	7,750	289,000	11,700	--	618,000
August	803,000	6,410	406,000	--	22,700	427,000
September	824,000	9,120	236,000	--	38,400	636,000
October	888,000	8,840	455,000	10,300	--	432,000
November	899,000	7,690	285,000	--	34,000	655,000
December	884,000	10,200	342,000	17,900	--	535,000
Total (January-May)	4,180,000	33,900	1,380,000	97,700	--	2,740,000
Year total	10,200,000	91,900	3,620,000	--	25,300	6,740,000
2000:						
January	809,000	6,510	327,000	65,200	--	424,000
February	740,000	8,660	237,000	--	18,500	530,000
March	841,000	6,920	217,000	47,900	--	583,000
April	839,000	5,910	297,000	--	921	549,000
May	810,000	5,560	314,000	--	93,900	595,000
June	881,000	NA	NA	--	35,500	NA
January-May	4,040,000	33,600	1,390,000	--	240	2,680,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.